



## Ethics - I

**2025**

1. (a) In the present digital age, social media has revolutionised our way of communication and interaction. However, it has raised several ethical issues and challenges. Describe the key ethical dilemmas in this regard. (Answer in 150 words)

(b) "Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment but a product of civil education and maturity of sense of rule of law." Examine this statement in the light of the role of civil servants in upholding constitutional morality, promoting good governance and ensuring accountability in public administration. (Answer in 150 words)

2. (a) Carl von Clausewitz states that "war is the continuation of politics by other means." Critically examine the relevance of this statement in present context of contemporary geo-political conflicts. (Answer in 150 words)

(b) Considering the national security in mind, examine the ethical dilemmas related to controversial issues of compensation in case of development projects in ecologically sensitive border areas in the country. (Answer in 150 words)

3. Given below are three quotations of great thinkers. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context? (Answer in 150 words each)

(a) "Those who in trouble untroubled are, Will trouble trouble itself?" — Thiruvalluvar

(b) "The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes of mind." — William James

(c) "The strength of a society lies not in its laudable ideals, but in the morality of its people." — Swami Vivekananda

4. (a) "For any kind of social re-engineering by successful implementation of a welfare scheme, a civil servant must rise above personal biases and prejudices to maintain objectivity." Justify this statement with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words)

(b) What are the major teachings of Mahavira? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world. (Answer in 150 words)

5. (a) "One who is devoted to one's duty attains highest perfection in life." Analyse this statement with reference to sense of responsibility and personal fulfilment as a civil servant. (Answer in 150 words)

(b) To achieve holistic development goal, a civil servant acts as an enabler and active facilitator of growth rather than a regulator. What specific measures will you suggest to achieve this goal? (Answer in 150 words)

6. (a) It is said that for an ethical work culture, there must be code of ethics in place in every organisation. To ensure values-based work culture, what suitable measures would you adopt in your workplace?

(Answer in 150 words)

(b) India is an emerging economic power of the world as evident from recent trends in GDP growth rate, foreign exchange reserves and IMF projection. However, it is still a developing country. In this context, how will you justify the need of an ethical framework for sustainable economic growth of the country? Discuss in 150 words.

## 2024

1 (a) The application of Artificial Intelligence as a dependable source of input for administrative rational decisionmaking is a debatable issue. Critically examine the statement from the ethical point of view.

(b) "Ethics encompasses several key dimensions that are crucial in guiding individuals and organizations towards morally responsible behaviour." Explain the key dimensions of ethics that influence human actions. Discuss how these dimensions shape ethical decision-making in the professional context.

2 (a) "It is not enough to talk about peace, one must believe in it; and it is not enough to believe in it, one must act upon it." In the present context, the major weapon industries of the developed nations are adversely influencing continuation of number of wars for their own self-interest, all around the world. What are the ethical considerations of the powerful nations in today's international arena to stop continuation of ongoing conflicts.

(b) Global warming and climate change are the outcomes of human greed in the name of development, indicating the direction in which extinction of organisms including human beings is heading towards loss of life on Earth. How do you put an end to this to protect life and bring equilibrium between the society and the environment.

3 Given below are three quotations of great thinkers. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context.

"Learn everything that is good from others, but bring it in, and in your own way absorb it, do not become others." -Swami Vivekananda

"Faith is of no avail in the absence of strength. Faith and strength, both are essential to accomplish any great work-" -Sardar Patel

"In law, a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics, he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so." -Immanuel Kant

4 (a) "The concept of Just and Unjust is contextual. What was just a year back, may turn out to be unjust in today's context. Changing context should be constantly under scrutiny to prevent miscarriage of justice." Examine the above statement with suitable examples.

(b) "Mindless addiction to Form, ignoring the Substance of the matter, results in rendering of injustice. A perceptive civil servant is one who ignores such literalness and carries out true intent." Examine the above statement with suitable illustrations.

5 (a) "The 'Code of Conduct' and 'Code of Ethics' are the sources of guidance in public administration. There is code of conduct already in operation, whereas code of ethics is not yet put in place. Suggest a suitable model for code of ethics to maintain integrity, probity and transparency in governance.

(b) The soul of the new law, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) is Justice, Equality and Impartiality based on Indian culture and ethos. Discuss this in the light of major shift from a doctrine of punishment to justice in the present judicial system.

6 (a) "In Indian culture and value system, an equal opportunity has been provided irrespective of gender identity. The number of women in public service has been steadily increasing over the years." Examine the genderspecific challenges faced by female public servants and suggest suitable measures to increase their

efficiency in discharging their duties and maintaining high standards of probity.

(b) Mission Karmayogi is aiming for maintaining a very high standard of conduct and behaviour to ensure efficiency for serving citizens and in turn developing oneself. How will this scheme empower the civil servants in enhancing productive efficiency and delivering the services at the grassroots level.

## 2023

1. (a): What do you understand by 'moral integrity' and 'professional efficiency' in the context of corporate governance in India? Illustrate with suitable examples.

(b): 'International aid' is an accepted form of helping 'resource-challenged' nations. Comment on 'ethics in contemporary international aid; Support your answer with suitable examples.

2. (a): "Corruption is the manifestation of the failure of core values in the society." In Your opinion what measures can be adopted to uplift the core values in the society?

(b): In the context of work environment, differentiate between 'coercion' and 'undue influence' with suitable examples.

3. Given below are three quotation of great thinkers. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context?

(a): "The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer".  
-Mahatma Gandhi

(b): "To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves." -Jawharlal Nahru

(c): "Do not hate anybody, because that hatred that comes out from you must, in the long run, come back to you. If you love, that love will come back to you, completing the circle." Swami Vivekananda

4. (a): "What really matters for success, character, happiness and lifelong achievements is a definite set of emotional skills - your EQ - not just purely cognitive abilities that are measured by conventional IQ tests." Do you agree with this view? Give reasons in support of your answer.

(b): Differentiate 'moral intuition' from 'moral reasoning' with suitable examples.

5. (a): Is conscience a more reliable guide when compared to laws, rules and regulations in the context of ethical decision-making? Discuss.

(b): 'Probity is essential for an effective system of government and socio-economic development.' Discuss.

6. (a): What were the major teachings of Guru Nanak? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world.

(b): Explain the term social capital. How does it enhance good governance?

## 2022

1. (a): Wisdom lies in knowing what to reckon with and what to overlook. An officer being engrossed with the periphery, ignoring the core issues before him, is not rare in the bureaucracy. Do you agree that such preoccupation of an administrator leads to travesty of justice to the cause of effective service delivery and good governance? Critically evaluate.

(b): Apart from intellectual competency and moral qualities, empathy and compassion are some of the other vital attributes that facilitate the civil servants to be more competent in tackling the crucial issues or taking critical decisions. Explain with suitable illustrations.

2. (a): The Rules and Regulations provided to all the civil servants are same, yet there is difference in the performance. Positive minded officers are able to interpret the Rules and Regulations in favour of the case and achieve success, whereas negative minded officers are unable to achieve goals by interpreting the same Rules and Regulations against the case. Discuss with illustrations.

(b): It is believed that adherence to ethics in human actions would ensure in smooth functioning of an organization/ system. If so, what does ethics seek to promote in human life? How do ethical values assist in the resolution of conflicts faced by him in his day-to-day functioning?

3. What does each of the following quotations mean to you?

(a): "Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have the right to do and what is right to do."

(b): "If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel that there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are father, mother and teacher." – A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

(c) 'Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.' – Dalai Lama

4. (a): What do you understand by the term 'good governance'? How far recent initiatives in terms of e-Governance steps taken by the State have helped the beneficiaries? Discuss with suitable examples.

(b): Online methodology is being used for day-to-day meetings, institutional approvals in the administration and for teaching and learning in education sector to the extent telemedicine in the health sector is getting popular with the approvals of the competent authority. No doubt, it has advantages and disadvantages for both the beneficiaries and the system at large. Describe and discuss the ethical issues involved in the use of online method particularly to the vulnerable section of the society.

5. (a): Russia and Ukraine war has been going on for the last seven months. Different countries have taken independent stands and actions keeping in view their own national interests. We are all aware that war has its own impact on the different aspects of society, including human tragedy. What are those ethical issues that are crucial to be considered while launching the war and its continuation so far? Illustrate with justification the ethical issues involved in the given state of affair.

(b): Write short notes on the following in 30 words each:

(i) Constitutional morality

(ii) Conflict of interest

(iii) Probity in public life

(iv) Challenges of digitalization

(v) Devotion to duty

6. (a): Whistle-blower, who reports corruption and illegal activities, wrongdoing and misconduct to the concerned authorities, runs the risk of being exposed to grave danger, physical harm and victimization by the vested interests, accused persons and his team. What Policy measures would you suggest to strengthen protection mechanism to safeguard the whistle-blower?

(b): In contemporary world, corporate sector's contribution in generating wealth and employment is increasing. In doing so, they are bringing in unprecedented onslaught on the climate, environmental sustainability and living conditions of human beings. In this background, do you find that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is efficient and sufficient enough to fulfill the social roles and responsibilities needed in the corporate world for which the CSR is mandated? Critically examine.



1. (a): Identify five ethical traits on which one can plot the performance of a civil servant. Justify their inclusion in the matrix.
- (b): Identify ten essential values that are needed to be an effective public servant. Describe the ways and means to prevent non-ethical behaviour in the public servants.
2. (a): Impact of digital technology as a reliable source of input for rational decision making is a debatable issue. Critically evaluate with suitable example.
- (b): Besides domain knowledge, a public official needs innovativeness and creativity of a high order as well, while resolving ethical dilemmas. Discuss with suitable example.
3. What does each of the following quotations mean to you?
- (a): "Every work has got to pass through hundreds of difficulties before succeeding. Those that persevere will see the light, sooner or later."- Swami Vivekanand
- (b): "We can never obtain peace in the outer world until and unless we obtain peace within ourselves." - Dalai Lama
- (c): "Life doesn't make any sense without interdependence. We need each other, and the sooner we learn that, it is better for us all."- Erik Erikson
4. (a): Attitude is an important component that goes as input in the development of human being. How to build a suitable attitude needed for a public servant?
- (b): In case of crisis of conscience, does emotional intelligence help to overcome the same without compromising the ethical or moral stand that you are likely to follow? Critically examine.
5. (a): "Refugees should not be turned back to the country where they would face persecution or human right violation". Examine the statement with reference to ethical dimension being violated by the nation claiming to be democratic with open society.
- (b): Should impartial and being non-partisan be considered as indispensable qualities to make a successful civil servant? Discuss with illustrations.
6. (a): An independent and empowered social audit mechanism is an absolute must in every sphere of public service, including judiciary, to ensure performance, accountability and ethical conduct. Elaborate.
- (b): "Integrity is a value that empowers the human being." Justify with suitable illustration.

## 2020

1. (a) Discuss the role of ethics and values in enhancing the following three major components of Comprehensive National Power (CNP) viz. human capital, soft power (culture and policies), and social harmony.
- (b) "Education is not an injunction, it is an effective and pervasive tool for all-round development of an individual and social transformation". Examine the New Education Policy, 2020 (NEP, 2020) in light of the above statement.
2. (a) Hatred is destructive of a person's wisdom and conscience that can poison a nation's spirit. Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.
- (b) What are the main components of emotional intelligence (EI)? Can they be learned? Discuss.
3. (a) What teachings of Buddha are most relevant today and why? Discuss.
- (b) 'The will to power exists, but it can be tamed and be guided by rationality and principles of moral

duty'. Examine this statement in the context of international relations.

4. (a) Distinguish between laws and rules. Discuss the role of ethics in formulating them.

(b) A positive attitude is considered to be an essential characteristic of a civil servant who is often required to function under extreme stress. What contributes to a positive attitude in a person?

5. (a) What are the main factors responsible for gender inequality in India? Discuss the contribution of Savitribai Phule in this regard.

(b) 'The current internet expansion has instilled a different set of cultural values which are often in conflict with traditional values.' Discuss.

6. (a) What do each of the following quotations mean to you?

"Condemn none: if you can stretch out a helping hand, do so. If not, fold your hands, bless your brothers, and let them go their own way." – Swami Vivekanand

(b) "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the services of others." – Mahatma Gandhi

(c) "A system of morality which is based on relative emotional values is a mere illusion, a thoroughly vulgar conception which has nothing sound in it and nothing true." – Socrates

## 2018

1. (a) State the three basic values, universal in nature, in the context of civil services and bring out their importance.

(b) Distinguish between "Code of ethics" and "Code of conduct" with suitable examples.

2. (a) What is meant by public interest? What are the principles and procedures to be followed by civil servants in public interest?

(b) "The Right to Information Act is not all about citizens' empowerment alone, it essentially redefines the concept of accountability." Discuss

3. (a) What is meant by conflict of interest? Illustrate with examples, the difference between the actual and potential conflicts of interest.

(b) "In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence and energy. And if they do not have the first, the other two will kill you." —Warren Buffet

What do you understand by this statement in the present-day scenario? Explain.

4. (a) "In doing a good thing, everything is permitted which is not prohibited expressly or by clear implication." Examine the statement with suitable examples in the context of a public servant discharging his/her duties.

(b) With regard to morality of actions, one view is that means are of paramount importance and the other view is that the ends justify the means. Which view do you think is more appropriate? Justify your answer.

5. (a) Suppose the Government of India is thinking of constructing a dam in a mountain valley bound by forests and inhabited by ethnic communities. What rational policy should it resort to in dealing with unforeseen contingencies?

(b) Explain the process of resolving ethical dilemmas in Public Administration.

6. What do each of the following quotations mean to you in the present context?

(a) "The true rule, in determining to embrace, or reject any thing, is not whether it has any evil in it; but

whether it has more evil than good. There are few things wholly evil or wholly good. Almost every thing, especially of government policy, is an inseparable compound of the two; so that our best judgment of the preponderance between them is continually demanded." – Abraham Lincoln.

(b) "Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding." – Mahatma Gandhi.

(c) "Falsehood takes the place of truth when it results in unblemished common good." – Tirukkural

## 2017

7. Conflict of interest in the public sector arises when

- (a) official duties,
- (b) public interest, and
- (c) personal interest

are taking priority one above the other.

How can this conflict in administration be resolved? Describe with an example.

8. Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil service:

- (a) Transparency
- (b) Accountability
- (c) Fairness and Justice
- (d) Courage of Conviction
- (e) Spirit of service

9. Young people with ethical conduct are not willing to come forward to join active politics. Suggest steps to motivate them to come forward.

10. (a) One of the tests of integrity is complete refusal to be compromised. Explain with reference to a real life example.

(b) Corporate social responsibility makes companies more profitable and sustainable. Analyse.

11. (a) "Great ambition is the passion of a great character. Those endowed with it may perform very good or very bad acts. All depends on the principles which direct them." – Napoleon Bonaparte.

Stating examples mention the rulers (i) who have harmed society and country, (ii) who worked for the development of society and country.

(b) "If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher." – A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Analyse.

12. (a) How will you apply emotional intelligence in administrative practices?

(b) Strength, peace and security are considered to be the pillars of international relations. Elucidate.

13. (a) The crisis of ethical values in modern times is traced to a narrow perception of the good life.

Discuss.

(b) Increased national wealth did not result in equitable distribution of its benefits. It has created only some "enclaves of modernity and prosperity for a small minority at the cost of the majority." Justify.

14. (a) Discipline generally implies following the order and subordination. However, it may be counter-productive for the organisation. Discuss.

(b) Without commonly shared and widely entrenched moral values and obligations, neither the law, nor democratic government, nor even the market economy will function properly.

What do you understand by this statement? Explain with illustration in the contemporary times.

## 2016

15. (a) Explain how ethics contributes to social and human well-being.

(b) Why should impartiality and non-partisanship be considered as foundational values in public services, especially in the present day socio-political context? Illustrate your answer with examples.

16. (a) What do you understand by the terms 'governance', 'good governance' and 'ethical governance'?

(b) Discuss Mahatma Gandhi's Concept of seven sin.

17. (a) Analyse John Rawls's concept of social justice in the Indian context.

(b) Discuss the Public Services Code as recommended by the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission.

18. (a) "Corruption causes misuse of government treasury, administrative inefficiency and obstruction in the path of national development." Discuss Kautilya's views.

(b) How could social influence and persuasion contribute to the success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan?

19. Law and Ethics are considered to be the two tools for controlling human conduct so as to make it conducive to civilized social existence.

(a) Discuss how they achieve this objective.

(b) Discuss how they achieve this objective.

20. Our attitudes towards life, work, other people and society are generally shaped unconsciously by the family and the social surroundings in which we grow up. Some of these unconsciously acquired attitudes and values are often undesirable in the citizens of a modern democratic and egalitarian society.

(a) Discuss such undesirable values prevalent in today's educated Indians.

(b) How can such undesirable attitudes be changed and socioethical values considered necessary in public services be cultivated in the aspiring and serving civil servants?

21. Anger is a harmful negative emotion. It is injurious to both personal life and work life.

(a) Discuss how it leads to negative emotions and undesirable behaviours.

(b) How can it be managed and controlled?

22. "Max Weber said that it is not wise to apply to public administration the sort of moral and ethical norms we apply to matters of personal conscience. It is important to realize that the state bureaucracy might possess its own independent bureaucratic morality." Critically analyse this statement.



23. (a) What is meant by 'environmental ethics'? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics.

(b) Differentiate between the following:

1. Law and Ethics
2. Ethical management and Management of ethics
3. Discrimination and Preferential treatment
4. Personal ethics and Professional ethics

24. Given are two quotations of moral thinkers/philosophers. For each of these, bring out what it means to you in the present context:

(a) "The weak can never forgive; forgiveness is the attribute of the strong."

(b) "We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light."

25. (a) "A mere compliance with law is not enough, the public servant also has to have a well-developed sensibility to ethical issues for effective discharge of duties." Do you agree? Explain with the help of two examples, where (i) an act is ethically right, but not legally and (ii) an act is legally right, but not ethically.

(b) How do the virtues of trustworthiness and fortitude get manifested in public service? Explain with examples.

26. (a) "Social values are more important than economic values." Discuss the above statement with examples in the context of inclusive growth of a nation.

(b) Some recent developments such as introduction of RTI Act, media and judicial activism, etc., are proving helpful in bringing about greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of the government. However, it is also being observed that at times the mechanisms are misused. Another negative effect is that the officers are now afraid to take prompt decisions. Analyze this situation in detail and suggest how this dichotomy can be resolved. Suggest how these negative impacts can be minimized.

27. Two different kinds of attitudes exhibited by public servants towards their work have been identified as the bureaucratic attitude and the democratic attitude.

(a) Distinguish between these two terms and write their merits and demerits,

(b) Is it possible to balance the two to create a better administration for the faster development of our country?

28. Today we find that in spite of various measures like prescribing codes of conduct, setting up vigilance cells/commissions, RTI, active media and strengthening of legal mechanisms, corrupt practices are not coming under control.

(a) Evaluate the effectiveness of these measures with justifications.

(b) Suggest more effective strategies to tackle this menace.

29. At the international level, the bilateral relations between most nations are governed on the policy of promoting one's own national interest without any regard for the interest of other nations. This leads to conflicts and tensions between the nations. How can ethical consideration help resolve such tensions? Discuss with specific examples.

30. Public servants are likely to confront with the issues of 'Conflict of Interest'. What do you understand by the term 'Conflict of Interest' and how does it manifest in the decision making by public servants? If

faced with the conflict of interest situation, how would you resolve it? Explain with the help of examples.

## 2014

Explain with examples.

31. (a) All human beings aspire for happiness. Do you agree? What does happiness mean to you? Explain with examples.

(b) What does ethics seek to promote in human life? Why is it all the more important in public administration?

32. (a) In the context of defence services, 'patriotism' demands readiness to even lay down one's life in protecting the nation. According to you, what does patriotism imply in everyday civil life? Explain with illustrations and justify your answer.

(b). What do you understand by 'probity' in public life? What are the difficulties in practicing it in the present times? How can these difficulties be overcome?

33. (a) "Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, but knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful." What do you understand by this statement? Explain your stand with illustrations from the modern context.

(b). "Human beings should always be treated as 'ends' in themselves and never as merely 'means'." Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving its implications in the modern technoeconomic society.

34. (a) Which eminent personality has inspired you the most in the context of ethical conduct in life? Give the gist of his/her teachings. Giving specific examples, describe how you have been able to apply these teachings for your own ethical development.

(b). There is a heavy ethical responsibility on the public servants because they occupy positions of power, handle huge amounts of public funds, and their decisions have wide-ranging impact on society and environment. What steps have you taken to improve your ethical competence to handle such responsibility?

35. (a) The current society is plagued with widespread trust-deficit. What are the consequences of this situation for personal well-being and for societal well-being? What can you do at the personal level to make yourself trustworthy?

(b). It is often said that poverty leads to corruption. However, there is no dearth of instances where affluent and powerful people indulge in corruption in a big way. What are the basic causes of corruption among people? Support your answer with examples.

36. What factors affect the formation of a person's attitude towards social problems? In our society, contrasting attitudes are prevalent about many social problems. What contrasting attitudes do you notice about the caste system in our society? How do you explain the existence of these contrasting attitudes?

37. What does 'accountability' mean in the context of public service? What measures can be adopted to ensure individual and collective accountability of public servants?

38. We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite existing legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences is on the rise. Suggest some innovative measures to tackle this menace.

## 2013

39. What do you understand by 'Values' and 'Ethics'? In what way is it important to be ethical along with being professionally competent?

40. (a) What do you understand by the following terms in the context of public service?

1. Integrity
2. Perseverance
3. Spirit of Service
4. Commitment
5. Courage of Conviction

(b) Indicate two more attributes which you consider important for public service. Justify your answer.

41. Some people feel that values keep changing with time and situation, while others strongly believe that there are certain universal and eternal human values. Give your perception in this regard with due justification.

42. What is 'emotional intelligence' and how can it be developed in people? How does it help an individual in taking ethical decisions?

43. (a) What do you understand by the term 'voice of conscience'? How do you prepare yourself to heed to the voice of conscience?

(b) What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? Narrate one incident in your life when you were faced with such a crisis and how you resolved the same.

44. Given below are three quotations of great moral thinkers/philosophers. For each of these quotations, bring out what it means to you in the present context:

(a) "There is enough on this earth for every one's need but for no one's greed." -Mahatma Gandhi

(b) "Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." - Abraham Lincoln.

(c) "I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who overcomes his enemies." - Aristotle

45. "The good of an individual is contained in the good of all." what do you understand by this statement? How can this principle be implemented in public life?

46. It is often said that 'politics' and 'ethics do not go together. What is your opinion in this regard? Justify your answer with illustration.